



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

632

August 3, 2018

Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write today in support of a compromise framework for the licensing of Priority Access Licenses (PALs) in the Commission's pending proceeding on the 3.5 GHz Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) band. The 3.5 GHz CBRS band provides a unique opportunity to promote expanded coverage to underserved communities in rural America, as well as providing a catalyst for innovation and modernization of the nation's existing infrastructure. Because of the potential, access to the 3.5 GHz CBRS needs to be attainable by all interested parties and stakeholders, regardless of the size of the company or location of the customers serviced.

To ensure that all stakeholders are given an opportunity to gain access to PALs at auction, I urge you to consider the size of licensed areas for CBRS auction. Ensuring PALs are allocated to allow providers to focus on communities in need may require license areas of smaller scope. For instance, in my Central Ohio Congressional District, there are only a few cellular market areas (CMA) encompassing all twelve counties I represent. PALs that are defined by CMA lines would be far too costly for smaller, local providers to afford, and could delay deploying access to underserved communities should modernization efforts be centralized in dense population centers of CMAs.

Therefore, I urge you to consider making CBRS PALs available on county-based tracts with opportunities to use census tracts where possible. Specifically, I urge you to consider that in every U.S. county, there should be five CBRS PALs available. County based PALs will meet the needs of commercial mobile wireless carriers, cable and broadband providers, and rural broadband operators.

Where possible census tracts should be used in U.S. counties where at least two PALs can be offered. These smaller PALs will help ensure industrial, critical-infrastructure entities, rural broadband providers, enterprise solution operators, and commercial real estate interests can be deployed with geographically-targeted services.

As the FCC considers their plans for CBRS PALs, I also urge the Commission to establish license terms that will allow the buildout and deployment of targeted services, while maintaining oversight of those licensees to specifically ensure we are closing the digital divide. I

encourage the FCC to ensure that PALs are renewable only after evaluation of certain performance criteria is assessed to ensure rural communities are effectively being served. A PAL term of at least seven years allows for both the deployment of services and the establishment of performance metrics to measure the impact of these providers.

This framework provides a mix of large-area and small-area licensing for the 3.5GHz CBRS band that will help to accommodate the needs of all stakeholders seeking to operate in the 3.5GHz band.

I urge the Commission to strongly consider incorporating these elements into any licensing framework going forward to ensure fair access to the 3.5 GHz CBRS band for all stakeholders. A compromise framework such as this will help to expand a wide range of business interests and innovations, while helping to ensure that rural America does not continue to be left behind.

Should you need additional information, please feel free to contact Wil Lloyd in my District Office at 740-654-2654, or by email at William.Lloyd@mail.house.gov.

Respectfully,



STEVE STIVERS
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 18, 2018

The Honorable Steve Stivers
U.S. House of Representatives
1022 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

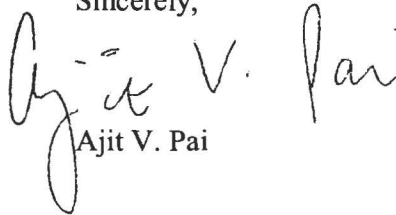
Dear Congressman Stivers:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's recent 3.5 GHz band rulemaking, spearheaded by Commissioner O'Rielly. In particular, I appreciated knowing of your support for county-based license areas as a method for increasing the pool of stakeholders bidding on Priority Access Licenses (PALs) at auction.

At the Commission's October 23, 2018 Open Meeting, we adopted a Report and Order that modifies the rules governing this band to facilitate shared access between federal and non-federal use and promote greater investment in the band. To accomplish this goal, we made targeted updates to the licensing and technical rules that will encourage more efficient and intensive use of the band. Consistent with your argument that "county based PALs will meet the needs of commercial mobile wireless carriers, cable and broadband providers, and rural broadband operators," we increased the size of PAL license areas from census tracts to counties. And consistent with your argument that a term of "at least seven years allows for both the deployment of services and the establishment of performance metrics to measure the impact of these providers," we extended license terms from three to ten years with a renewal expectancy. We expect these rule changes will go a long way toward increasing investment in the band and maintaining U.S. leadership in the deployment of next-generation services, including 5G.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai